

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Amended) An intraoral data input tool for use during dental examination of
2 a patient, said tool comprising:

3 a handle, said handle being generally cylindrical, the diameter of
4 said handle being much smaller than the length of said handle, said handle
5 being configured to be held between the thumb and first and second fingers of
6 a dental examiner's hand; and

7 a head rigidly attached to a first end of said handle, said head
8 being generally flat and thin with a largest dimension of approximately 2.5
9 centimeters, said head including a data input device, said data input device
10 being responsive to force applied by a stylus, said head being configured to
11 allow a dental examiner to input data using said stylus on said input device
12 when said head is comfortably positioned at least partially within said patient's
13 mouth.

1 2. (Original) The intraoral data input tool of claim 1 wherein said head is
2 discoid.

1 3. (Amended) The intraoral data input tool of claim 2 further comprising an
2 extrusion rigidly attached to the perimeter of said discoid head diametrically
3 opposite to said handle, said extrusion extending radially from said discoid
4 head, said extrusion being configured to allow said dental examiner to place
5 one or more fingers of said examiner's stylus bearing hand against said
6 extrusion to provide extra stability when inputting data with said stylus.

1 4. (Original) The intraoral data input tool of claim 1 wherein said data input
2 device comprises a multiplicity of push buttons.

1 5. (Original) The intraoral data input tool of claim 4 wherein each of said push
2 buttons has a top surface area in the range of 1 to 2 square millimeters.

1 6. (Original) The intraoral data input tool of claim 1 wherein said data input
2 device comprises a touch sensitive display.

1 7. (Original) The intraoral data input tool of claim 1 wherein said head further
2 includes a mirror.

1 8. (Original) The intraoral data input tool of claim 7 wherein said data input
2 device comprises a multiplicity of push buttons located peripherally about said
3 mirror.

1 9. (Amended) The intraoral data input tool of claim 7 wherein said head is
2 discoid having first and second parallel flat surfaces on opposite sides of said
3 head and wherein said data input device and said mirror are positioned on said
4 first and said second flat surfaces respectively.

1 10. (Original) The intraoral data input tool of claim 1 wherein said head further
2 includes a display.

1 11. (Original) The intraoral data input tool of claim 1 further comprising a
2 translucent disposable cover.

1 12. (Original) The intraoral data input tool of claim 11 further comprising a
2 clamp configured to keep said disposable cover conformal with the surface of
3 said data input device.

1 13. (Original) The intraoral data input tool of claim 1 further comprising a
2 wireless communication device contained within said handle, said
3 communication device being electrically connected to said data input device.

1 14. (Original) The intraoral data input tool of claim 1 further comprising:
2 an electrical connector attached to a second end of said handle;
3 and
4 an electrical cable connecting said electrical connector to said
5 data input device.

1 15. (Original) The intraoral data input tool of claim 1 wherein said stylus is a
2 dental probe.

1 16. (Amended) A dental data input system comprising:
2 an intraoral data input tool, said tool including a data input device;
3 a handle, said handle being generally cylindrical, the diameter of
4 said handle being much smaller than the length of said handle, said handle
5 being configured to be held between the thumb and first and second fingers of
6 a dental examiner's hand;
7 a head rigidly attached to a first end of said handle, said head
8 including a data input device, said head being configured to be generally flat
9 and thin with a largest dimension of approximately 2.5 centimeters; and
10 a stylus;
11 wherein said data input device is responsive to force applied by
12 said stylus, and said intraoral data input tool is configured to allow a dental

13 examiner to input data using said stylus on said data input device when said
14 input device is comfortably positioned at least partially within a patient's mouth.

1 17. (Original) A dental data input system as in claim 16 wherein said stylus is
2 a dental probe.

1 18. (Original) A dental data input system as in claim 16 further comprising a
2 controller with an operating program, said controller being linked to said
3 intraoral data input tool by a communication means.

1 19. (Original) A dental data input system as in claim 18 wherein said
2 communication means comprises an electrical cable.

1 20. (Original) A dental data input system as in claim 18 wherein said
2 communication means is a wireless communication means.

1 21. (Original) A dental data input system as in claim 18 wherein said operating
2 program includes a routine for periodontal examination.

1 22. (Original) A dental data input system as in claim 18 wherein said operating
2 program includes a routine for dental charting.

1 23. (Original) A dental data input system as in claim 18 further comprising:
2 a display electrically connected to said controller; and
3 a keyboard electrically connected to said controller.

1 24. (Original) A dental data input system as in claim 18 further comprising a
2 voice synthesizer electrically connected to said controller.

1 25. (Original) A dental data input system as in claim 18 further comprising an
2 auxiliary input device electrically connected to said controller.

26-41 (Canceled)

1 42. (New) The intraoral data input tool of claim 1 wherein said head
2 comprises:
3 a rigid pan;
4 a circuit board positioned within said pan, said circuit board
5 including push buttons and a display, said circuit board having a central cutout;
6 a mirror positioned within said central cutout of said circuit board;
7 and
8 a flexible plastic cover positioned over said mirror and said circuit
9 board, said cover forming the top surface of said head, said cover being

10 configured to hermetically seal said circuit board and said mirror within said
11 head.

1 43. (New) The intraoral data input tool of claim 1 wherein said head
2 comprises:

3 a rigid pan;

4 a circuit board positioned within said pan, said circuit board
5 including push buttons and a display;

6 a mirror positioned over said circuit board, said mirror having
7 apertures for said push buttons and said display; and

8 a gasket positioned between said circuit board and said mirror,
9 said gasket hermetically sealing all of said apertures in said mirror and
10 hermetically sealing said mirror to the periphery of said rigid pan.

1 44. (New) The intraoral data input tool of claim 1 wherein the length of said
2 handle is approximately 13 centimeters.

1 45. (New) The intraoral data input tool of claim 2 wherein said discoid head
2 has first and second parallel flat surfaces on opposite sides of said head and a
3 circumferential surface, said handle being rigidly attached to said
4 circumferential surface.

1 46. (New) The intraoral data input tool of claim 45 wherein the diameter of
2 said handle is smaller than the length of said handle, the long axis of said
3 handle being in a plane containing a diameter of said discoid head.

1 47. (New) The intraoral data input tool of claim 46 wherein said plane is
2 perpendicular to said first flat surface.

1 48. (New) The intraoral data input tool of claim 9 wherein said data input
2 device comprises push buttons, a display and a touch sensitive display.

1 49. (New) The intraoral data input tool of claim 12 wherein said clamp is a c-
2 clamp and said head is discoid having a concave circumferential surface, said
3 concave circumferential surface retaining said c-clamp.

1 50. (New) A dental data input system as in claim 17 wherein said stylus
2 includes a graduated end for periodontal probing.

1 51. (New) A dental data input system as in claim 50 wherein said stylus
2 includes a knee adjacent to said graduated end, said stylus being configured to
3 allow data input with said knee.

1 52. (New) A dental data input system as in claim 17 wherein said stylus
2 includes a graduated end configured for periodontal probing and a second end
3 configured for use in data input.

1 53. (New) An intraoral data input tool for use during dental examination of a
2 patient, said tool comprising:

3 a rigid pan having a bottom surface and a side wall around the
4 periphery of said bottom surface;

5 a handle rigidly attached to said side wall of said pan;

6 a circuit board positioned within said pan, said circuit board
7 including push buttons and a display;

8 a mirror positioned centrally within said pan; and

9 a cover positioned over said circuit board, said cover being
10 configured to hermetically seal said circuit board within said pan;

11 wherein said push buttons are responsive to force applied by a
12 stylus, and wherein said intraoral data input tool is configured to allow a dental
13 examiner to input data using said stylus when said pan is comfortably
14 positioned at least partially within said patient's mouth.

1 54. (New) The intraoral data input tool of claim 53 further comprising a
2 platform with push buttons, said platform being rigidly attached to said tool at
3 the position where said handle is attached to said side wall of said pan.

1 55. (New) The intraoral data input tool of claim 53 wherein said circuit board
2 has a central cutout, said mirror is positioned within said central cutout of said
3 circuit board, said cover is positioned over said mirror and said circuit board,
4 and said cover is configured to hermetically seal said circuit board and said
5 mirror within said pan.

1 56. (New) The intraoral data input tool of claim 53 wherein said mirror is
2 positioned over said circuit board and said mirror has apertures for said push
3 buttons and said display, said cover is a gasket positioned between said circuit
4 board and said mirror, said gasket hermetically sealing all of said apertures in
5 said mirror and hermetically sealing said mirror to the periphery of said pan.